

While two of the fundamental purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is to provide emergency communications, and expand the reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts, this proposal does not explain how removal of the Element 1 requirement will accomplish those purposes.

Morse Code continues to be the second most popular mode on the high frequency bands. Other digital modes such as PSK31, JT44, and digital voice require extra equipment beyond the basic transmitter. Expansion of digital modes other than Morse Code should be encouraged.

During emergency communications, the only power available may be enough for a low power transceiver, but not the extra equipment (i.e. outboard computer) it takes for these other modes.

I recommend the current requirement for Element 1 testing be retained.